NIGHTWISH RELOADED

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*THE BREAKTHROUGH album for the Finnish outfit, and a firm favourite amongst fans – some of whom cite it as their **finest ever** release.*

*Featuring major hit singles in 'Sleeping Sun' & 'Walking in the Air' (a majestic cover of the famed Howard Blake composition), 'Oceanborn' saw Nightwish turning up their musical ambition... and the **power** along with it!*

A challenging record to create, it pushed the individual musicians to the very edge of their abilities, and sounds all the more exciting for it.

'Oceanborn' (1998): a symphonic metal masterclass that effectively defined a genre.

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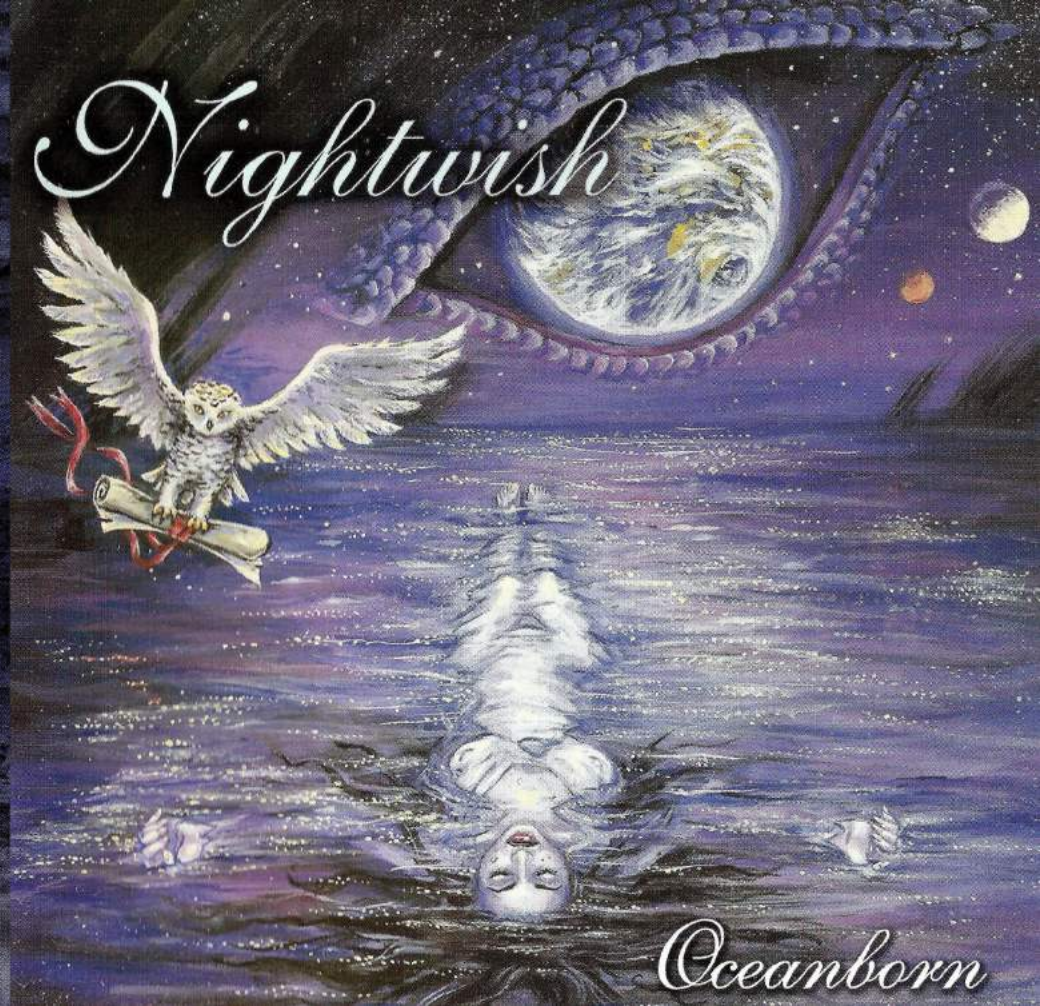

(clockwise)
SAMI VÄNSKÄ: bass
EMPPU VUORINEN: guitars
JUKKA NEVALAINEN: drums/percussion
TARJA TURUNEN: vocals
TUOMAS HOLOPAINEN: synths/piano

~ Oceanborn ~

"Ambition beyond abilities. Well, ***almost****.*

"At the time of writing 'Oceanborn', I'd already had the revelation that music was all I wanted to do in life. This album became a turning point for the band, hailed as a classic of its genre, and still considered our best effort by many. I can understand that viewpoint, actually, as the record has an incomparable atmosphere that will never be there again.

"'Oceanborn' also contains our version of Howard Blake's 'Walking in the Air', the original song being the most beautiful piece of music ever written."

Tuomas Holopainen

Stargazers

A grand oasis in the vastness of gloom
Child of dew-spangled cobweb, Mother to the Moon
Constellations beholders of the 3rd vagrant
Theater for the play of life

Tragedienne of heavens
Watching the eyes of the night
Sailing the virgin oceans
A planetride for Mother and Child

Floating upon the quiet hydrogen lakes
In this ambrosial merry-go-round they will gaze
Ephemeral life touched by a billion-year-show
Separating the poet from the woe

(Repeat chorus)

Oracle of the Delphian Domine
Witness of Adam's frailty
Seer of the master prophecy
The stellar world her betrothed

Wanderers in cosmic caravan
Universal bond - The Starborn

A son in search for the truth
Following the pages of Almagest
Discovering the origin of dreams
Stargazers ride through the ancient realms

(Repeat chorus)

Gethsemane

Toll no bell for me, Father
But let this cup of suffering pass from me
Send me no shepherd to heal my world
But the Angel - the dream foretold
Prayed more than thrice for You to see
The wolf of loneliness in me
...not my own will but Yours be done...

You wake up, where's the tomb?
Will Easter come, enter my room?
The Lord weeps with me
But my tears fall for you

Another Beauty
Loved by a Beast
Another tale of infinite dreams
Your eyes they were my paradise
Your smile made my sun rise

Forgive me, for I don't know what I gain
Alone in this garden of pain
Enchantment has but one truth:
I weep to have what I fear to lose

(Repeat chorus)

"I knew you never before
I see you never more
But the love, the pain, the hope, O beautiful one
Have made you mine, 'til all my years are done"

Without you
The poetry within me is dead

"You tell me, my love; It's not love if it's not forever. But let me tell you; A Scene could be much more to remember than the Play itself"

With wishes for you, in June '98

Devil & The Deep Dark Ocean

A snowy owl above the haunted waters
Poet of ancient gods
Cries to tell the neverending story
Prophecy of becoming floods

An aura of mystery surrounds her
The lady in brightest white
Soon the incarnate shall be born
The Creator of the Night

Deep dark is His Majesty`s kingdom
A portent of tomorrow`s world
There shall the liquid give Him power
The red-eyed unborn lord

Fatal embrace of the bloodred waters
The cradle of infinite gloom
The spell to master this Earth
Carven on an infant`s tomb

"I will die for the love of the mermaid
Her seduction, beauty and scorn
Welcome to the end of your life
- Hail the Oceanborn!"

"Disgraced is my virginity
Death has woven my wedding dress
Oh, Great Blue, breathe the morning dew
For you are the cradle for the image of god"

"Brave now, long rest is sweet
With me here in the deep"

"I prayed for pleasure, wished for love
Prayed for your..."

"Never pray for me!"

"Who the hell are you for me
But a mortal dream to see"

"This apathetic life must drown
Forever just for me"

"Leave me be
Leave me be
Leave me be.. ee eeee... e"

"From cradle to coffin
shall my wickedness be your passion"

We shall come to set the dolphins free
We shall wash the darkened bloodred sea
Our songs will echo over the mountains and seas
The eternity will begin once again in peace

Sacrament of Wilderness

Naked in midwinter magic
Lies an angel in the snow
-The frozen figure crossed by tracks of wolves
An encounter, symbolic, yet truthful
With a hungry choir of woods
An agreement immemorial to be born

Dulcet elvenharps from a dryad forest
Accompany all charming tunes
of a sacrament by a campfire
A promise between the tameless
and the one with a tool
Tonight the journey from a cave begins

I want to hunt with the tameless heart
I want to learn the wisdom of mountains afar
We will honour the angel in the snow
We will make the streams for our children flow

Wrapped in furs beneath the northern lights
From my cave I watch the land untamed
And wonder if some becoming season
Will make the angel melt in shame

(Repeat chorus)

Nightwish
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Passion And The Opera

Princess of lust
Dignity put to dust
A virginal sight
Their apple to bite

Drink from my thighs
The rain of lies
A sight so cursed:
Breasts which never nursed

An Aphrodite for mortal souls
Playing hide and seek in lecherous roles
Their erotic hour, my tearless weep
Their satisfaction, my infinite sleep

Naked limbs reflecting from the moon
I'll be there for you soon
First wish for this night:
Let me be your delight

Body of a virgin
Soul to the Devil's kin
Your God is me
In all that you see

An Aphrodite for mortal souls
Playing hide and seek in lecherous roles
Their erotic hour, my tearless weep
Their satisfaction, my infinite sleep

Swanheart

All those beautiful people
I want to have them all
All those porcelain models
If only I could make them fall

Be my heart a well of love
Flowing free so far above

A wintry eve
Once upon a tale
An Ugly Duckling
Lost in a verse
Of a sparrow's carol
Dreaming the stars

Be my heart a well of love
Flowing free so far above

In my world
Love is for poets
Never the famous balcony scene
Just a dying faith
On the heaven's gate

Crystal pond awaits the lorn
Tonight another morn for the
lonely one is born

Moondance

(Instrumental)

The Riddler

Riddler, Riddler ask me why
The birds fly free on a mackerel sky
Ask me whither goes the winds
Whence the endless tick-tick stream begins

Make me guess if the Earth is flat or round
Set a quessing if fantasies are unbound
If tales aren't just for children to see
That it's peace if sleep walks with me

As you wish
For kingdom come
The one to know all the answers
You think you dwell in wisdom's sea
Still, sweet ignorance is the key
To a poet's paradise
Challenge the Riddler and you will see...

Riddler, Riddler ask me why
All mothers beneath the Earth and sky
Hold their children's hands for a while-
Their hearts forever... yours and mine

Make me wonder what's the meaning of life
What's the use to be born and then die
Make me guess who's the one
Behind the mask of Father and Son

(Repeat chorus)

For nature hates virginity
I wish to be touched
Not by the hands of where's and why's
But by the Oceans' minds

(Repeat chorus)

The Pharaoh Sails To Orion

"Get away from me!
Take heed to thyself and see my face no more!
For in the day Thou see my face
Thou shalt die!"

Exodus 10:28

A constellation of divine architecture built on Earth
A holy harbour - Orion
Nautical ascension to the firmament

Ship-shaped barrows open my heart to the wisdom of this land
Sailing with the Serpent Chimera of a fiendish sandman

The Unicorn arrives with the westwind to dream His funeral
"Thou art born for Horus dwells in Thee"

Slumbering with the ebb and the flow of this foaming tomb
"Thou art born for Setch dwells in Thee"

Reveal Your face to me and guide me through the Stygian fields
Enthral my soul to Sepedet's beams to serve Your will

Sailing on the distant seas from darkness to deliverance
Tales like the ocean written to the Draco's glance

Ruling with the scythe of death you tear our philosophies apart
An ancient starwalk to merge into the stars

"Open thy veins for my venom
Kiss the cobras with thy twisted tongue
So shalt thou join the empyrean circus
Where beggars mourn and seraphs dance
In this twilight cathedral
Shall I wed thee,
O Bride of the Netherworld"

(Repeat chorus)

Join my soul the Hunter in the sky

Walking in the Air

(Theme from "The Snowman")

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Sleeping Sun

(Single issued to coincide with the solar eclipse of August 11th 1999)

BREAKTHROUGH FROM THE BLUE LAGOON...

WRITTEN DURING the Spring of 1988 (when certain group members were still in the army), 'Oceanborn' held on to the innocence of the 'Angels Fall First' debut whilst at the same time realising *all* of the band's early promise to truly spectacular effect. On Album No. 2, Nightwish got heavier and more musically ambitious, and in doing so they left a mark on the symphonic metal landscape that can still be viewed from a distance. Actually, make that *from space*.

With Jukka's mother having lent him the funds for his first 'proper' kit, the *Tama Esprit* set he'd always wanted, the drums were duly recorded in the locker room of the Huvikeskus sports hall, a firm foundation on which the complex song structures could be stacked – 'complex' being the operative word. Make no mistake, 'Oceanborn' didn't come into the world without a fair share of kickin' & screamin'; in keeping with Tuomas' expanded musical vision, choirs and flute and strings were now brought boldly into play (with TH's former music teacher, Plamen Dimov, providing some of the violin parts), not forgetting back-up vocals from Finntroll legend Tapio Wilska.

His characterful contributions (on 'Devil & The Deep Dark Ocean' and 'The Pharaoh Sails To Orion') were the perfect foil for Tarja's crystal-cut tones, and indeed it is the latter who perhaps faced the sternest test of all, given the complexity of the lyrics and the broad sweep of the songs. There were times when the singer was pushed right to the edge when it came to meeting the huge demands of the music, but she never backed away from the challenge, and the result is an album that most right-minded Nightwish fans consider one of their **very** best.

As part of the set-up campaign, 'Sacrament of Wilderness' was put out as a single (in Finland), supported by a low-key promo clip, and its impact was immediate; a No. 1 record for four weeks and in the charts for 20, it not only became a gold record but it ensured that the album itself would enjoy a healthy chart run too (of some 35 weeks), finally peaking in the Top 5. There was, if truth be told, a small amount of 'negative' publicity, with the lyrics to 'Devil & The Deep Dark Ocean' being hailed in certain corners as 'blasphemous', but it was clearly a quite ludicrous accusation and ultimately one that did nothing to halt the rise of both band and record...

In May 1999, 'Oceanborn' picked up an international release (complete with different artwork), and it wasn't long before Germany was taking a keen interest in these five Finns and their ultra-dramatic, escapist music. A brand new song, 'Sleeping Sun', was issued to coincide with the solar eclipse of August 11th 1999, and although only a limited number of singles were actually pressed up (complete with special 'eclipse-proof' glasses!), the record stayed in the German charts for three to four weeks, also hitting the No. 2 spot back in Finland, going gold on import! (Naturally, 'Sleeping Sun' was added to the tracklisting the very next time the album was manufactured).

Inside the same year, 'Oceanborn' would achieve platinum status at home, buoyed up by the huge success of second single 'Walking in the Air' – a No. 1 song in Finland, where it stayed in the Top 40 for 18 weeks, turning gold in the process. Never again would Nightwish be able to record an album without the weight of expectation pressing on their shoulders to a degree; Tuomas may have chosen to pursue the 'Oceanborn' title because it summed up his view of the sea as a primitive and mystical force, but back on *terra firma*, his band had broken through in different markets, were touring overseas and were now facing the always difficult task of following up a hit...

Dante Bonutto
Spinefarm Records UK

All music & lyrics by Tuomas except #4 music by Emppu/ Tuomas & #10 lyrics and music by Howard Blake
Arrangements (except #10) by Nightwish & Tero Kinnunen.
Nightguests: Esa Lehtinen - Flute, Plamen Dimov - Violin, Kaisli J. Kaivola - Violin,
Markku Palola - Viola, Erkki Hirvikangas - Cello, Wilska - "Devilvoice" & "Pharaohvoice"
Recorded at Caverock studio by Tero Kinnunen in August-October '98. Mixed at Finnvox studios by Mikko Karmila.
Mastered at Finnvox studios by Mika Jussila. Artwork by Maria Sandell. Re-issue design by Curt Evans.
Project co-ordination by Dante Bonutto.

The band would like to thank the following:
The Spinefarm crew, Esa Lehtinen, String ensemble, Esa Leinonen, Sanna Kainulainen, Jarmo Lautamäki, Toni Härkönen, Samppa Hirvonen, Plamen Dimov, Wilska, Kimi, Erkki Kontro, Mikko Karmila and everyone who has believed and supported us during this path so far. Shine on! An extended wish of gratitude goes to Tero Kinnunen for being just the right one for us!

Personal appreciations:
Tarja: My dear family. I want to thank you for your understanding which has been fantastic during the whole process. Especially I want to remember my little brother Toni (The drummer). You've been so supporting I can but wonder. And my dearest Janne. When I had a rough time you were always there for me. I love you very much. Special greetings to Marianna (My bodyguard). I only hope to see you on tour with us. Thanks to every single one who has helped and supported me. This album could not have been made without you. And also, not forgetting our fans!

Emppu: Dad & Mom, Jamppa, Mirka, Laura & Essi, my mummot (grannys of rock 'n' roll), Vuokko, Jussi, Peijooni & the Tiger, Martti Vuolle-Apiala, Kimi (Mr. Pig), Mika Sachse, Jarmo & Sumppi, Satu, Plamen, Esa at Kiteen Musiikki, Jack Björklund & Into Oy, Washburn, Markku Vanhanen, Jari Mäenpää, all my true friends. My lovely girlfriend Mervi!

Jukka: My dear girlfriend Satu (thanks for your love and support), my parents Matti & Erja (thanks for being there and supporting), my brother Seppo, sister Elina and her family Pasi and Jiri (you bring light and joy into my life!), Jamppa (kukkakaali on pahaa) & Sumppi Lautamäki (thanks for your patience and friendship, drums are a pretty noisy instrument, aren't they???), Esa at Kiteen Musiikki (You've been an enormous help), my grandmother Sylvi, my aunt Erja and her family (Jukka, Otto and Arttu), Kimi (thanks for everything), the whole family Nevalainen and family Lautamäki, Tommi Kärkkäinen, Vesa Lukkarinen, AMS Musiikki, you who gave me a hint about the drums I bought, I don't know your name but you know who you are, thanks!!! All my friends.

Tuomas: Tarja, Emppu, Jukka, Sami & Tero for sharing it all! Mom & Dad, Pete, Miia & Riku, Sussu & Teemu (Found out why the nightingale sings?), Teemu & Wizzard, Pasi & Darkwoods My Betrothed. Tero, Antti, Jari and Janne for friendship ("Island" weekends rulez!), Plamen, Esa at Kiteen Musiikki. And finally the Haunting Beauty of Gethsemane garden. This one is for you.

Sami: Esa at Kiteen Musiikki, Plamen, Tero (The Caveman) Kinnunen, Emppu, Jukka, Tarja, Tuomas, family & friends.

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